

2.8.2008 - A Little Peace And Quiet

The ability of corporations and government to collect detailed personal information about individuals and store that information in searchable databases is an unwelcome side effect of recent technological advancements and the rise of the internet age. As a result, Americans' personal privacy is under attack more today than at any time in our Nation's history.

Americans deserve the right to choose to be free from calls while in the privacy of their own homes. The Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) "Do Not Call" registry has provided relief from unwanted telemarketing calls to thousands of West Virginians and is a useful program nationwide.

This list gives consumers the opportunity to control how many telemarketing calls they receive at home. Once they place their home or cell phone number on the registry, they are protected by law from unwanted and bothersome telemarketing calls, while still free to receive calls from approved businesses.

Since its inception, more than 146 million Americans have taken advantage of the protection and peace-of-mind provided by the "Do Not Call" Registry. It is critical we keep this beneficial program free, simple, and readily accessible for American consumers.

Recognizing this, the Congress recently passed the Do Not Call Extension Act, S.781, to reauthorize the FTC's ability to collect fees from telemarketers to cover the operational costs of the program permanently.

It is vitally important that personal privacy be federally protected and control over personal information be left up to the individual. I am proud to have given my support to legislation that allows families to enjoy dinner together without interruption and ensures the registry remains free and effective for consumers for years to come,

I urge all West Virginians to participate in this worthy program and protect themselves from unwanted calls.

telemarketers subject to the regulations, as well as information on how to file a complaint against unwanted telemarketing calls and other federal consumer protection programs can be found at the Federal Trade Commission's website www.ftc.gov and the Federal Communications Commission's Website www.fcc.gov.

You may register your telephone number online at DONOTCALL.GOV or by phone, toll-free, by calling 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236). Registration is free. According to the Federal Trade Commission, once your name has been on the registry for 31 days, most undesired telemarketing calls should stop.

As always, feel free to contact my office for further help or information. Keep in mind that due to safety regulations, all mail sent to my Washington, DC office must be carefully screened, adding to delivery times. To ensure a timely response, please consider addressing your mail to one of my district offices.

Beckley
Office:

301 Prince St. | Beckley, WV 25801 | (304) 252-5000

Bluefield
Office:

601 Federal
St., Room 1005 | Bluefield, WV 24701 | (304) 325-6222

Huntington
Office:

845 Fifth
Ave. | Huntington,
WV 25701
| (304) 522-6425

Logan
Office:

220 Dingess
St. | Logan,
WV 25601
| (304) 752-4934

Washington
Office:

2307 Rayburn HOB | Washington,
DC 20515
| (202) 225-3452